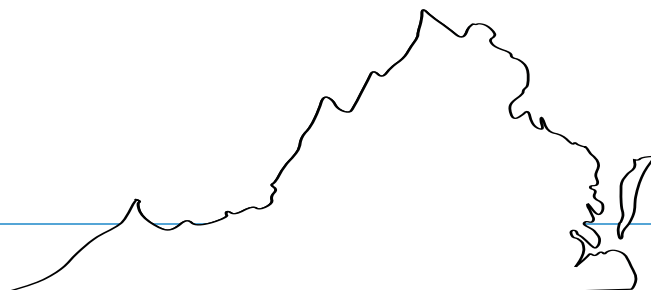


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Virginia Field Office

## *Environmental Contaminants*



As the primary federal agency with responsibility to assess the effects of contaminants on fish and wildlife resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a vital role in addressing the health of the natural environment upon which our country depends. The Service serves this role in Virginia by focusing the expertise of its Environmental Contaminants biologists on the most imperiled of the nation's wildlife. We work with a diverse group of federal, state, and local partners to prevent, minimize, and remediate contaminant related impacts to fish and wildlife natural resources.



Environmental Contaminants biologists work with the Department of Defense in Virginia to assess effects to fish and wildlife resources on their lands. We provided technical assistance to Fort Eustis on the revegetation of a landfill. The landfill was revegetated with native warm-season grasses to provide food and shelter for migratory birds. We worked with Fort Monroe to conduct a comprehensive plant survey. Field data was used to create a geographic information system (GIS) layer to direct management of the base, targeting the removal of invasive species and replanting with native species.

Environmental Contaminants biologists evaluate approximately 500 spill reports a year in Virginia. We work proactively with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Virginia Coastal Area Committee on spill response preparedness for Virginia in an effort to minimize harm to fish, wildlife, and sensitive environments from oil spills when they occur.

With significant community involvement, Environmental Contaminants biologists have initiated actions to restore the Clinch, Powell, and Holston rivers in the Upper Tennessee River Basin. Through the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program, we have allocated funds for educational outreach to improve community stewardship of natural resources, including endangered species. We are supporting a student at Virginia Tech to facilitate community outreach activities within Tazewell County and an education coordinator in Lee County.

Environmental Contaminants biologists remain involved with the Elizabeth River Project Sediment Remediation Partnership. Partners include the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and U.S. Navy as well as local cities and businesses. The partnership promotes voluntary remediation of contaminated sediments in the Elizabeth River watershed through cooperative efforts. Ongoing remediation projects will improve the quality of the habitat and reduce ecological risk from contaminants for both migratory birds and anadromous fish.



Environmental Contaminants biologists and partners assess water quality using established protocols to evaluate aquatic insects and other organisms that live in streams and lakes. To enhance the recovery of endangered aquatic species, we partner with state and federal agencies to ensure that the water supports aquatic life and beneficial uses. The success of efforts in priority watersheds to restore riparian habitat and abate sources of water pollution are reflected in the diversity and abundance of aquatic species in Virginia.

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October 2005